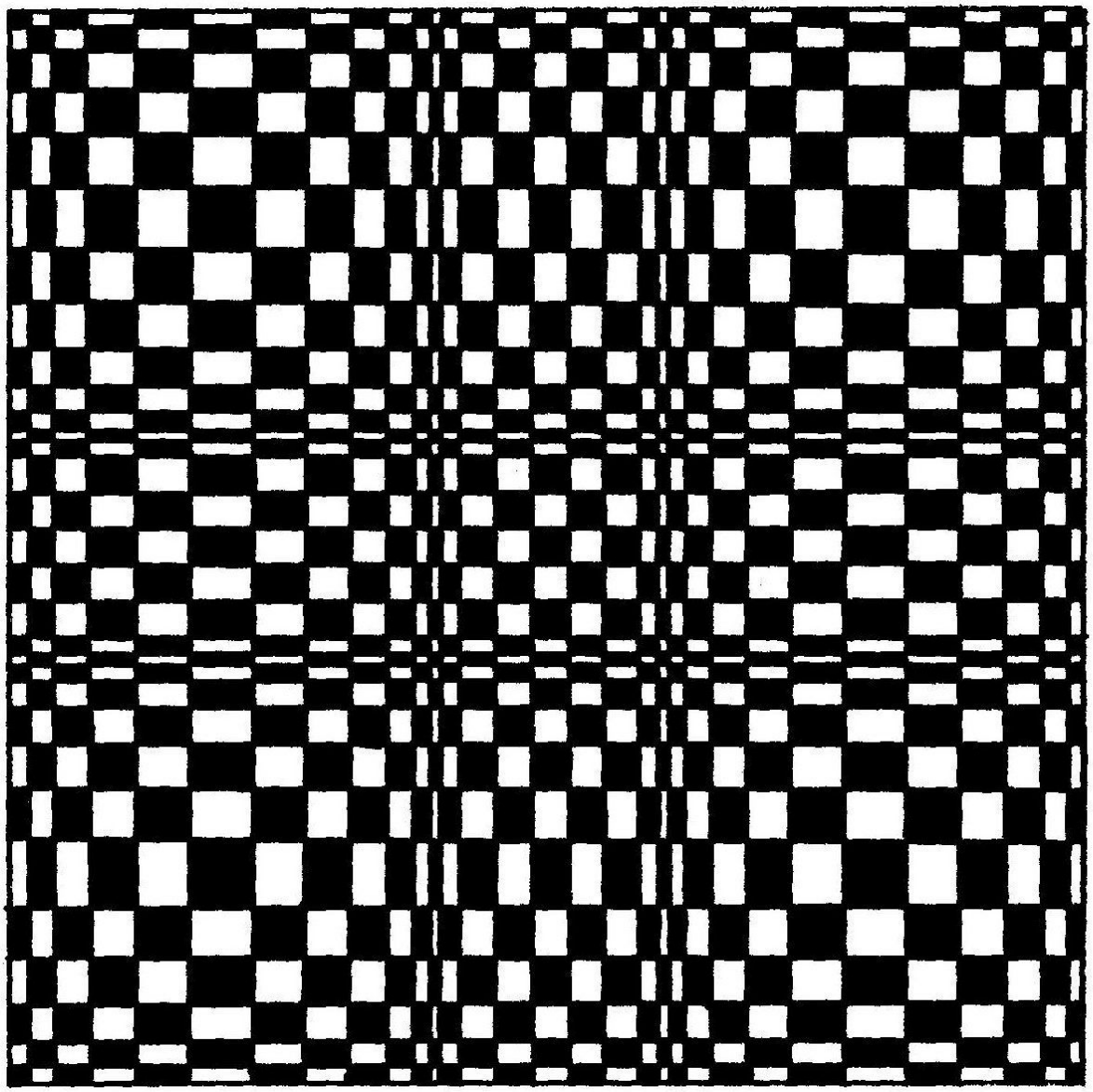
THE BI-MONTHLY

Newsletter of the Bisexual Center

Volume 6 Number 5 September-October 1982



Cover Graphic by Tom Talo. Tom was working on this drawing when he made the decision to stop drinking and join Alcoholics Anonymous. For information on the new A.A. group at the Bi Center, see page 9.

SFSI: WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT

If you've been around the Bi Center for any length of time, you've probably heard someone making vague references to an organization called "San Francisco Sex Information," or SFSI -- pronounced, tongue-twistingly, "Sfiss-see." SFSI is a non-profit community-sponsored switchboard, staffed by people who answer caller's questions about sex in a non-judgmental, sex-positive, supportive, and factual way. But that only tells part of the story.

Since a large number of the Bi Center's members are also SFSI graduates, we thought we'd give them a chance to tell you about their personal experiences of doing the SFSI training, in their own words.

So, if you've been wondering what SFSI is all about, or are, yourself, a bisexual SFSI-ite who has been dying to tell your story, come to the Bi Center for the SFSI presentation, and bring your friends -- it's only a dollar!

Date: Thursday. September 23
Time: 7:30-10:00 p.m.
Place: The Bi Center
Donation Requested: $1.00

NOTE: Due to a lack of space in this issue, Part II of "Options Unlimited" will be published in the next issue of the Bi-Monthly.)

THE BISEXUAL CENTER

P.O. Box 26227
San Francisco, CA 94126
(415) 929-9299

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PUBLISHER: The Bisexual Center

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Editor: Jim Barnes

PRODUCTION, THIS ISSUE:

Ruth Ale xander, Maggi Rubenstein, Sandi Woodruff

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How did you hear about the Bi Center?_____

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RESEARCH PROJECT on SEXUAL ORIENTATION

by Pat Saliba

In 1979 I began a research project on sexual orientation. The project may sound familiar to some of you, because I came to the Bi Center among other places, looking for people to interview.

I had two main ideas that were "new" for a study on sexual orientation. (1) I wanted to interview self-identified bisexuals, heterosexuals and homosexuals and (2) I wanted to get information about three aspects of sexual orientation: physical sexual activity, affectionate relationship and erotic fantasy. Self-identification is actually an issue in itself. In most studies, the researcher goes to gay bars, for example, to get respondents for a study on homosexuality, assuming that all people who inhabit gay bars are gay. A few researchers even publish the results of asking these "homosexuals" how they self-define, which indicate that 40 to 60% consider themselves to some degree bisexual or even heterosexual. The researchers, however, still lump them together and publish their studies on homosexuality.

This was a serious error that I wanted to avoid when I began. Also, I thought it would be fun and interesting to take three self-defined groups -- bisexual, heterosexual, and homosexual, with relatively equal numbers of men and women in each -- and then see what diversity I found within each group. I had been reading Kinsey, who speaks so wonderfully of variability, and I felt that I would find so many differences among bisexuals, for example, that in certain ways they would not be distinguishable from heterosexuals or homosexuals.

The "certain ways" included many things such as types of sexual activity, numbers of sexual and non-sexual relationships, and descriptions of their sexual and affectionate partners. Also, as I indicated earlier, one of my main ideas was to investigate what I refer to as aspects of sexual orientation. If you have seen the Kinsey Sexual Orientation Rating Scale, it consists of 7 points, ranging from "exclusively heterosexual" (zero) to "exclusively homosexual" (6). Kinsey and his associates used this scale in a specific way: they took a person's life-long sex history, including behavior with and fantasies about men and women, and, combining these two aspects, came up with a single rating for the person on the Scale. What I have done is to allow each person to rate herself or himself on three separate "Kinsey" Scales -- one for physical sexual activity (defined as sexually arousing body contact with one or more persons); one for affectionate relationships (defined as relationships based on trust, either sexual or non-sexual); and one for erotic fantasy (defined as mental images of one or more individuals engaging in physical sexual activity or affectionate relationships).

Since Kinsey considered erotic fantasy to be an important source of information about sexual orientation over 30 years ago, that idea is not too radical, although many people, as we know, don't readily disclose the content of their fantasies, particularly if they are "cross-preference" ones, such as opposite-sex fantasies for homosexuals or same-sex ones for heterosexuals. However, including affectionate relationships in a study of sexual orientation is radical indeed; one critic called it "idiosyncratic" (meaning I'm the only one who would do such a thing). But I wanted to see if given the opportunity, people would describe their affectionate relationships, as well as their erotic fantasies, using different ratings than what they used for physical sexual activity. I also asked them how important they felt each aspect was in determining their self-identification of sexual orientation. If most everyone said that affectionate relationships were not important in defining sexual orientation, for example, then I would know that my ideas were wrong. Also, if people tended to rate themselves at the same point on each scale, then there would be no need to have three scales. If the ideas were correct, however, then sexual orientation would become much more than the sex of the person(s) one sleeps with, which of course has given rise to the seemingly eternal "are you straight or gay" question. (Historical note: In John Boswell's Christianity, Social Tolerance and Homosexuality, he points out that in ancient Rome, the terms heterosexual and homosexual did not exist.)

So, having given you the background for the study, I will tell you some of the major findings. If I had to sum them up

in one sentence. I would say "Sexual orientation is complex, not simple". Specifically, people almost never rate themselves at the same point on all three scales, and they may say that physical sexual activity, affectionate relationships and erotic fantasy are all at least somewhat related to their self-definition of sexual orientation. Also, within each group there is at least some diversity of ratings on each scale. physical sexual activity included: In other words, all the heterosexuals and homosexuals aren't exclusively so, and all the bisexuals aren't "perfect 3's."

Beyond this generalization of the whole sample, however, there are quite a few differences between the three groups and some between men and women. Among the bisexual group, diversity is found in all three aspects -- their ratings are all over the scales (except less likely to be at either exclusive point). They are likely to rate their sexual activity, for example, as usually with persons of the opposite sex and incidentally or more than incidentally with the same sex; or, they may rate it as mostly with persons of the same sex, and only incidentally with the opposite sex. Only about one-eighth of the bisexuals rated their sexual activity as equally with both sexes, although this rating was frequently used to describe affectionate relationships. And erotic fantasy ratings were as diverse as those for sexual activity.

In addition, bisexuals as a group say that affectionate relationships and erotic fantasies are just about as important as sexual activity in their decision to self-identify as bisexual. In fact, bisexual women and men are likely to define their affectionate relationships in terms of potential for sexual interaction:

> "My affectionate relationships are intimate friends; sharing on a lot of levels. It has the potential of being long-term; it has the potential of a sexual component of some kind".

> "Affectionate relationships include honesty and humor; playfulness; warmth. They should be good in bed".

The heterosexual group presented quite a different picture. While they had, most often, affectionate relationships with both men and women, they tended to feel that these relationships had little bearing on their sexual orientation. Heterosexual women in particular expressed this view and described sex and affection very differently:

> "I look for a loving person who is empathetic, shows concern, puts themself out emotionally shows their feelings. If it's a sexual relationship they don't have to be empathetic, etc., if I'm attracted to them."

> "Affection could lead to attraction, but affection won't make any difference if I'm not attracted."

> "Affection is definitely female, sexual is male."

> "Most of the people I care about, I want to be physical with on some level. I like contact, it's more than intellectual. It has nothing to do with sex." (heterosexual male)

The lesbians interviewed, however, saw affectionate and sexual partners as being very similar, suggesting that affection precedes sex. The qualities that attract gay women as friends are likely to be the same ones on which they base their sexual relationships:

> "Sex is meaningless unless there is a connection with a person. I trust her because she saw me through things as a friend."

> "A sexual partner is someone that loves and trusts me, and someone I trust; trust has to be there or I can't enjoy it."

> "I look for the same things in a sexual partner as in a friend, but just a physical reaction, in me and in the other person."

This is not to say that all lesbians say the same things. Following is another quote:

> "One woman I had known for four years before we were intimate; one for a few days. The one for four years was completely sexual, the one quality in the relationship. In other relationships, the qualities are affection, trust, interest in the same things."

Homosexual men, like heterosexual women, said that affectionate relationships were not a large part of their sexual orientation, and the gay men tended to emphasize sexual activity and fantasies to a much greater extent. When describing their sexual partners, they gave long lists of physical qualities, and then for affectionate relationships, equally large numbers of personality attributes, which explained why they saw the two so differently.

It is interesting to point out that of the three aspects, affection is the one on which men and women differ in their scale ratings -- and they each see affec-

tion as female (women describe their affectionate relationships as same-sex; men describe them as opposite-sex). And what I found was that among those who relate to women sexually, affectionate relationships are seen as a more important part of sexual orientation. To lesbians, they are most important; to bisexual men and women and heterosexual men, they are moderately important; to heterosexual women and gay men, they are least important. This is verified by the similarity of the qualities that each uses to describe sexual and affectionate partners.

Overall, sex and affection are seen as two separate dimensions -- sex being embodied by physical appearance, also by personality characteristics, and by specifically sexual and physical qualities of the relationship. Yet a single person can represent both the sexual and the affectionate. In addition to the characteristics listed above, there may be even more positive personality qualities, such as sincerity, intellect, compassion, being non-judgmental and sensitive. Also, if the interpersonal ties are strong -- if there is a feeling that one person knows what the other needs, and there is closeness and comfort between them, then the affectionate will also be of importance in that relationship. The bisexual group, of the three, most often had affectionate relationships that were sexual -- 50% for bisexual women, on the average, and 75% for bisexual men. For the homosexual and heterosexual groups, 40-50% of their affectionate relationships which were consistent with their sexual orientation were on a sexual basis, but very few heterosexuals had sex with their same-sex friends, (even if they were engaging in same-sex activity) and homosexuals had few friends of the opposite sex. Many affectionate relationships, for everyone, were ones which had at one time been sexual, but were continued on a long-term, primarily affectionate basis.

If affection and sexuality are two "dimensions", perhaps the dimension is one of intensity, where either sex or affection may be more or less important at different times. My guess would be that this is exactly what does happen, and we see it in our relationships as they evolve. And to have sex and affection be intense makes for a profound sense of intimacy, which we may not always desire (or be able to deal with). But how is this related to one's sexual orientation? Members of the homosexual group have most of their affectionate relationships with persons of the same sex -- much more so than the other two groups. Opposite-sex friends are likely to be long term relationships begun before identification as gay, or persons met through daily interactions, such as work or school. Members of the heterosexual group may have as many same- as opposite-sex friends, but they tend not to see this same-sex affection as sexual or sensual. For heterosexual women, affection is dominated by non-sex related qualities (personal, interpersonal, and interests). Their criteria for sexual partners, on the other hand, tend to be "specifically male". And the men they relate to have an even different set of criteria: for affectionate relationships for heterosexual men, personal qualities outnumber physical ones 2 to 1, but for heterosexual women, the ratio is 8 to 1! And when the men describe their ideal sexual partner, it is not appearance they focus on, but specifically sexual qualities and physical aspects of the relationship, such as being passionate and liking sex.

Issues of how sex and affection are merged are clearly important for maintenance of intimacy in relationships. Sex may be dealt with completely aside from affection, and still a great deal of intimacy may be experienced. In lesbian relationships, a frequent complaint is of "merging" or loss of identity, due to the profound closeness that is experienced. A gay man once told me. "When I go out and have (or even when I don't have) sex with men other than my lover, I get my identity back". We were all raised to view friendship as valuable and non-sexual, and sex was another type of relating. Indeed, many people with only heterosexual experience cannot imagine being sexual with a same-sex friend. To some, they feel there is no basis for sexual attraction; to others, the idea of sexual attraction toward an intimate friend may cause fear, and even some bisexually identified persons relate sexually to the same sex only in the company of a third, opposite-sex person. And among bisexual men and women, there are enormous differences (or highly significant ones, in statistical terms) in what they want from their sexual and their affectionate relationships.

So what have I found? Tremendous variability, in all areas: Scale ratings, descriptions of sex and affection, fantasies. And yet the bisexuals are much more like one another than they are either the heterosexual or homosexual groups, and the same is true for each group. But I've found something else -- how one deals with sex and affection is related to being a man or a woman, and to one's sexual orientation. Not only does it make sexual orientation a complicated issue. it suggests that research which tries to find the answer in biology is far from the truth. Sexual orientation is not only much more than who you sleep with (since about a fifth of the heterosexuals and homosexuals sleep with both sexes, and many more fantasize about doing so), but it is also where your affections lie, and even more importantly, how you integrate

those affections into your sexual identity. The bisexual person who says, "A large part of the reason I'm bi is because I feel close to both men and women" is saying something to the world of sex research, particularly to those who are fumbling around with test tubes, or passing out endless questionnaires in gay bars. Also, clinicians who are attempting to help a client change her or his sexual orientation need to know that this may involve a change in the entire network of the person's life, rather than simple turn-on to different genitals. It may be easier to talk about genitals and endocrine glands than intimacy, but then, is it any wonder that we understand so little about sexual orientation?

NEW FACES AT THE RAP GROUPS

After almost four years of leading rap groups at the Bi Center, Marilyn King and David Lourea have given an intensive facilitator's training workshop for people interested in leading the rap groups. As a result, you will be seeing some new and committed rap group leaders at the Tuesday and Wednesday night groups and also at the Women's Rap Group on Monday nights. They will be there to encourage people to make "I" statements, and to look for the statement behind the question being asked.

If you haven't been to a rap group lately, please come, lend your support and see how effective our new facilitators are.

We'd like to extend special thanks to Carl Anderson, Bill Jones, Arlene Krantz, John Clay, Beth Elliott, Rene' Dutton-Turner, and Charlene Piper, all of whom have bravely -- and ably -- taken on the job of facilitating the rap groups without the aid of a formal training program.

This past training was a unique and special experience. There will be another training program in the spring. Watch for the announcement if you're interested.

HEY, BABE! YOU OUGHT'A BE IN PICTURES!

Start your own bi album with copies of the photos taken at Bi Center functions over the last two years: parties, Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day parades, Russian River trips, etc. Those of you that have taken pictures and have the negatives, or know of a good, cheap place to get prints developed, or can donate the time to develop prints yourself, also contact Daphne, mornings, at 221-6411. There will be a Photo Party. Volunteer help appreciated!

WOMEN'S RAP GROUP

The ongoing Women's Group meets at the Bi Center on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. It is open to all interested women. We ask for a donation from $3.00 to $5.00 to help support the work of the Bisexual Center.

BOARD MEETINGS

The next two meetings of the Board of Directors of the Bisexual Center will be held on Monday, September 13 and Monday, October 11 at 7:30 p.m., at the Bi Center. Meetings of the Board of Directors are open to members who would like to share ideas and suggestions or just want to see how the Bi Center is run.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Your Board of Directors cordially invites you to attend a general membership meeting. We welcome you to "BYO" -- feedback, -- suggestions, -- inquiries, and (above all), -- discussion of what you want to see happening at the Bisexual Center.

Date: Sunday, September 26
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: The Bi Center

POTLUCK À TON GOÛT

(No, it doesn't mean you've going to eat a ton and suffer from the gout afterward!)

Bi Center potlucks in past years have given the gourmet cooks among us the chance to dazzle the eye and seduce the palate with an amazing variety of delicious dishes. We've had potlucks with (among others) French, Chinese, and Middle-Eastern themes: this one will be "themeless," and you're invited to bring your specialty, or maybe the dish you really liked and want your friends to try. This is a members-only event (as usual, each member may bring one non-member guest).

Date: Saturday, October 16
Time: 7:00-11:00 p.m.
Place: The Bi Center
Donation Requested: $1.00 -- members
$2.00 -- guests

ANONYMITY

For legal and other reasons, we cannot accept contributions to the Bi-Monthly that do not identify the author/artist or provide some way for the editor to contact her/him. We will provide a pen name for publication, if desired.

The Editor

Letters

Response to letter written by Curt Holzinger in the July/August issue of The Bi-Monthly:

I've never "responded" to a newssheet letter before, but I was particularly moved by the letter sent in by Curt Holzinger in the July/August issue. I guess the main reason I'm writing is to give him some kind of feedback. To let him know that there are women "out there" who respect his vulnerability, sensitivity, and caring.

I, too, have been to the Bi Center. I went for a period of about six months and consider it one of the most memorable times of that period of my life. I also agree that the warmth and freedom of the Bi Center were great sources of strength for me. I really needed to know there were people who accepted me no matter what problems I had in my life. And I got that and more. It really helped me get through a time in my life that was confusing and extremely hard.

When Curt remarked on the issue of the male/female ratio at the Center it brought back many memories for me. There were many times when I was the only female in the group. It was quite an intimidating feeling. And yet, I almost always felt welcome and wanted. But I do agree that it would have been much more challenging (not to mention comfortable) to have more women there. Again, I agree that hearing about men's fears, joys, problems and solutions is good, but it would have been more helpful to me to share all this with women too. I'm aware there is a women's rap group on Monday nights, but I had the need to interact with both men and women simultaneously. There are other reasons too. but none that need discussing in such a "formal" setting as this letter It would be much more convenient in a face-to-face situation. (Yes, yes...such as the rap groups...)

So, I ask myself...what's the solution? The obvious one is attendance. One of the main reasons why I no longer go, is that at the time I was going, there were mostly gay men there. Please believe me, I am not negating those men's lifestyles...but it was hard (for me) to interact with men who were not interested in any involvement with me. At the time there were very few men (that I was aware of) who were bisexual that attended and/or who felt comfortable "coming out" as that in the group and who were willing to share their thoughts/feelings as Curt is.

The second problem, again for me, was transportation. Being a woman (and physically petite) it is a great concern to travel on the buses at night. I know there is an effort made to give rides home but it is not reliable and therefore, for me, poses a problem on how I can get home safely.

I know that each of the reasons above is my own personal "roadblock", but I wanted to share them to perhaps let you understand.

I could go on and on responding to the different things Curt said in his letter, but I've decided to end by saying to Curt that I thank him for very much for being so open and so very vulnerable. There aren't many men that I've met who can be like that and I hope he continues to remain that way.

Sincerely.

Valerie Bellarmino
San Francisco

Greetings:

S.F. Bisexual Center: for a number of years I have been looking for something such as the San Francisco Bisexual Center.

At least your Bi-Monthly (Vol. #6, #1) (plus a chat by phone with Tala) convinces me of quality on many levels.

Damn! Why didn't I learn of the Center long ago? The best I can hope for at the present time would be a visit and attend to some special event.

But I'm so pleased to know of your existence and apparent well-established, on-going center.

All good wishes.

RG
Trinidad, CA

FUND RAISING IDEA

The Bi Center is somewhat short of money these days. Some of us have very little money and can't realistically contribute more than we are giving already. Others of us, however, may have a few extra bucks. My hope is that some of us out there can give $5-$10-$15-$25-$50-$100- per month until we are more solvent. I'm kicking off this tithe idea by putting my money on the line monthly temporarily. Will you join me in this effort?

By the way, we are well on the way to Non-Profit Status (yea!) and hope to have it this year!

Maggi Rubenstein

1983 PARADE COMMITTEE FORMING
OR
"DON'T PUT AWAY THOSE HAMMERS YET!"

True, not everybody loves a parade. Even fewer of us want to work on making a parade happen.

It's been years since the now-traditional Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade first made its way up San Francisco's Market Street. In the midst of the street-partying that goes on during the Parade, people often forget the political and philosophical motivations a person may have for marching. Whatever meaning the Parade has for each of us -- and all of these meanings are valid -- the Bisexual Center's appearance in the largest community event of the year does not go unnoticed. The gay community is kept aware of our existence and intention to stand beside them; scores of new Bi Center members have found "their place" with us because of the Parade.

In light of the importance of our participation in the Parade, it is astounding to note that each year, only a few hearty souls have invested their time, money, and energy in furtherance of the Bi Center's participation in the Parade. Problems have abounded. Before they have a chance to start working against us next Spring, we are going to get to work.

It's time to organize.

The 1983 Bi Center Parade Committee will hold its initial organizational meeting on September 11th 7 to 9 p.m. at the Bi Center. The Committee's chair, Charlene, encourages all interested parties to attend. We would especially like to hear from people who have worked on the Parade Committees of past years, in hopes of incorporating your hard-earned wisdom into our current effort. Also welcome are those of you who have valid criticisms of the Center's involvement in past Parades (especially if you can follow them up with simple, workable solutions). We will focus on the first fund-raising event to benefit the Parade Committee, to be held sometime in October of this year; some discussion of theme and construction of the booth will follow.

Questions, comments and/or suggestions may be sent to the Bi Center. c/o Charlene, or you may telephone the Center and leave a message for a call back.

Let's get cracking!!

Date: Saturday. September 11
Time: 7 - 9 p.m.
Place: The Bi Center

WOMEN'S POTLUCK

We're having a women's potluck at Nancy Love's house at 1541 Oak Street Apartment 3, on Friday, September 24th at 8:00 p.m. Looking forward to seeing you!

INTIMACY WORKSHOP
or...
I WANT TO BE CLOSE... WAIT, NOT THAT CLOSE!

Our famous (or infamous!) Intimacy Workshop is back! Take a day for yourself.... to explore your innermost issues, wishes and blocks around intimacy. What is intimacy, anyway? How do we find or create it? Why is it such a difficult thing to deal with-- even (or especially) when we have it!

This dynamic, one-day workshop is one of the most powerful experiences offered by the center. It is designed to explore various ways of sharing intimately with others, to examine the limits and blocks we set up to having our intimacy needs met and to explore ways to push beyond the limits in our intimate interactions.

If creating a stronger intimate relationship is an issue for you, give yourself a treat and experience this workshop.

Led by: David Lourea and Marilyn King.
Cost: $30 for Bi Center members, $40 for nonmembers
Time: Saturday, October 9, 10:00 am to 6.00 pm.
Place: NOTE: A NEW LOCATION FOR WORKSHOP!! The workshop will be held at Marilyn's house, 1851 14th Ave. in San Francisco. Call Marilyn at 564-7789 for directions.

People who have taken the intimacy workshop already may repeat it for half price. Please preregister by Oct. 1 by signing up at the Center or sending a $5 deposit to Marilyn at 1851-A 14th Ave. San Francisco 94122.

BI CENTER'S OWN PLEASURE PARTY

Come to a pleasure party presented by Susan Thorner Bi Center member and purveyor of sex toys. A fun and informative presentation of gourmet lovers' toys will be given. **Toys will be available for purchase the night of the party,** so bring cash or your checkbooks. A donation will be made to the Bi Center from the party proceeds. RSVP to Susan at 826-1399 (so I can estimate how much stock to bring). Potluck something delectable to eat or drink. Members only.

Date: Thursday, September 16
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: The Bi Center

NEWSLETTER

Your articles, letters, and graphics are needed for the Bi-Monthly. All contributions must be in by the start of the layout session to be considered for the next issue of the newsletter Schedule for the next issue:

LAYOUT: Sunday, October 17, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
PASTEUP: Sunday, October 24, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

We urgently need help in typing, setting up titles, cutting and pasting, and other jobs. No prior experience is required.

NEW BOOK ON BISEXUALITY

Maggi Rubenstein, Margo Rila and David Lourea are in the process of putting together a collection of writings on bisexuality, describing peoples personal experiences. We are hoping to come up with a book that will show a continuum of bisexual behavior, from mostly same-gender oriented to mostly other-gender. If you would like to submit an article, please contact Maggi or David via the Bi Center.

ADVERTISEMENTS: Advertising space is made available to Bi Center members only. Business cards will be printed for $5.00 per card; other ads cost $1.00 per 42-character line. Sorry, no "relationship" ads. The Bi-Monthly will exchange advertising space with other publications (contact the editor for information).

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"BI BYE BOOZE" GROUP

The Bi Center is delighted to announce the formation of a new A.A. group, meeting at the Bi Center and sponsored by the local branch of Alcoholics Anonymous. This is our first A.A. group, and they have our strong support and best wishes. The "Bi Bye Booze" group is open to all. There will be a speaker at the first meeting of each month and open discussion on other nights.

Dates: Mondays
Time: 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Place: The Bi Center

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY NIGHT RAP GROUPS

The Bi Center has drop-in rap groups on Tuesday and Wednesday nights, open to all interested people. The rap groups are a good way to find out what the Center offers and to exchange ideas on sexuality, relationships and other subjects. They start at 7:30 p.m. and run until 10:00 p.m. Please be on time. We ask for a $3.00 to $5.00 donation to help support the work of the Center

Community Bulletin Board

SIXTH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Happy birthday to us! The Bi Center has been alive and growing for six years now. For our sixth anniversary party, we've decided to do a circus theme -- maybe because it's been such a circus around here, these past six years. At any rate. bring your clowns, bears, acrobats, whatever -- and friends -- and join us on Saturday. October 2. We'll provide some party food; please bring what you want to drink. Costume optional (but encouraged!) Non-members welcome.

Date: Saturday, October 2
Time: 9:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.
Place: The Bi Center
Donation Requested: $3.00 -- members
$5.00 -- non-members

HALLOWEEN

Halloween at the Bi Center is one of the most exciting events of the year. In seasons past, we have seen pass through our doors some of the most creative, exciting, and liberating costumes of any in the city.

We invite you to let loose one of your inner fantasy creatures and come to the Center. We'll have punch and munchies for you. After all, some people say "Halloween in San Francisco is like Mardi Gras in New Orleans!"

Date: Saturday, October 30th
Time: 9:00 to whenever
Place: The Bi Center
Donation Requested: $5 -- members
$7 -- non-members

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

There are many activities at the Bi Center that would benefit from your talents and skills. If you're interested in sharing them with others by participating in an ongoing committee or the planning and sponsoring of an event, call the Bi Center at 929-9299; leave your name, your phone number, and the activity you're interested in. (Refer to the list on the new membership form for additional inspiration.) The fourth Monday of the month has been set aside at the Bi Center for committee use, though some meet at other times or places.

Dates: Monday September 27 and
Monday, October 25
Time: call for specific information
Place: The Bi Center

LESBIANS RELATING TO MEN RAP GROUP

This new rap group will be starting September 20th at 7:30 p.m. at the Bi Center and will continue to meet on the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month. Please try to be on time. We ask for a donation from $3.00 to $5.00 to help support the work of the Bisexual Center.

GAMES NIGHT

Games night at the Bi Center! Bring the games you like best -- Yahtzee, Scrabble, checkers, cards, even Tarot -- party food and something to drink. We'll ask for a small donation to pay for the electricity and all.

Date: Saturday, September 18
Time: 7:30 - 12:00 p.m.
Place: The Bi Center

OPEN HOUSE

Come on over to meet "The Bi Center": what is the Bi Center, what role does it play in the community, how can it work with other community organizations toward shared goals, what can it do for you, and what can you do for it??? Bring those friends who always wanted to know about it, but have yet to drop by and ask. (Remind them that people of all sexual orientations are welcome at the Bi Center.) Socializing with light snacks and drinks will follow.

Date: Friday, October 15
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Place: The Bi Center
Donation Requested: $1.00

WOMEN'S SELF-EXAM WORKSHOP

This workshop will provide information on various women's health concerns with an emphasis on prevention and self-treatment. There will be a demonstration of self-exam with a speculum and an opportunity to practice this skill. The workshop is flexible and can focus on those health issues important to the women attending. The workshop is open to women members only.

Date: Thursday, October 7
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: The Bi Center
DonationRequested: $2.00
(includes speculum and other materials)

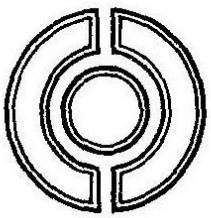
BI-MONTHLY CALENDAR 1982

SEPT

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6 "BI'BYE BOOZE" A.A. GROUP P. 9 ♀ GROUP, p. 6	7 TUESDAY NIGHT RAP GROUP P. 9	8 WEDNESDAY NIGHT RAP GROUP P. 9	9	10	11 PARADE COMMITTEE P. 11
12	13 BOARD MT., P. 6 A.A., P. 9	14	15	16 PLEASURE PARTY P. 8	17	18 GAMES NIGHT P. 10
19	20 LESBIAN→♂ RAP GROUP STARTS, P. 10 ♀ GROUP, P. 6 AA. GROUP, P. 9	21	22	23 S.F.S.I. PRESENTATION P. 2	24 WOMEN'S POTLUCK P. 8	25
26 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING P. 6	27 COMMITTEE MEETING P. 10 A.A. GROUP, P. 9	28	29	30		

OCT

					1	2 6TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY P. 10
3	4 ♀ GROUP, P. 6 A.A. GROUP, P. 9	5	6	7 WOMEN'S SELF-EXAM P. 10	8	9 INTIMACY WORKSHOP P. 8
10	11 BOARD MT., P. 6 A.A. GROUP, P. 9	12	13	14	15 OPEN HOUSE P. 10	16 POTLUCK P. 6
17 NEWSLETTER LAYOUT P. 9	18 ♀ GROUP, P. 6 A.A. GROUP, P. 9	19	20	21	22	23
24 N.L. PASTEUP P. 9 31	25 COMMITTEE MEETING P. 10 A.A. GROUP, P. 9	26	27	28	29	30 HALLOWEEN PARTY P. 10



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"The Bi-Monthly September-October 1982 Vol. 6 Issue. 5." The Bi-Monthly, vol. 6, no. 5, September-October 1982, pp. [1]+. Archives of Sexuality and Gender, link.gale.com/apps/doc/IGSWSH492654976/AHSI?u=ubcolumbia&sid=bookmark-AHSI. Accessed 13 Dec. 2024.